

STODERBAKER MOUNTAIN
MAY 1911

DRAWER 11A

GRAVE SITES

7/ 2009. 285. 05145

Indiana

Grave Sites

Nancy Hanks Lincoln Studebaker Monument

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA.

At the June term 1880, the undersigned ask leave to make the following statement:

On the 25th day of July, 1879, Mr. P. E. Studebaker, the well known Carriage Manufacturer of South Ben, Indiana, saw an editorial paragraph in the Tribune of that city to the effect that the grave of Mrs. Nancy Lincoln the mother of President Lincoln, was left unmarked and uncared for in the forest near Lincoln City in this County.

He immediately wrote to Mr. L. S. Gilkey, Postmaster at Rockport, to know if this statement was true, and receiving an answer that it was substantially correct he sent his check for fifty dollars to Mr. Gilkey asking him to procure the best tombstone that could be obtained for that sum and to have it set up at her grave.

Mr. L. S. Gilkey contracted with Alfred H. Yates of Rockport for a very neat marble slab with appropriate inscription and on the 27th day of November, 1879, it was put up at the grave in the presence of a large number of people assembled to witness this act of honoring the memory of the dead.

A few days before this time Mr. R. T. Kercheval wrote to Henry Lewis of Cincinnati, Ohio, Trustee of the owners of the land at Lincoln City asking him to make a donation of a small plat of ground where the grave is situated.

Mr. Lewis responded generously offering to give half an acre of the land embracing said grave.

On the day the tombstone was erected Mr. W. W. Wells, County Surveyor, kindly gave his services in measuring and marking off the half acre of ground and on the ____ day of ____ 1879, Mr. Henry Lewis as trustee for

Conveyed to John A. Huffman, David F. Axton and John M. Gwaltney, as a Board of Commissioners of Spencer County and to their successors in office the said half acre of land to be held by them in trust for the whole people of the United States for the purpose mentioned in said deed.

Said deed is recorded in the record of Deeds of Spencer County Book, Page ____ and is now shown to the Court.

On the same day the tombstone was erected James C. Veatch started a subscription of \$1.00 each to procure an iron fence to inclose said grave and obtained for that purpose \$50.00.

He contracted with S. W. Stocking of Rockport, Agent of the Manufacturers of the Champion Iron Fence of Kenton, Ohio, for 36 feet of ornamental Iron Fence for the sum of \$42.00. The Manufacturers giving it at actual cost in consideration of the purpose for which it was to be used.

A statement of the cost of said fence and expense of transporting and erecting the same with the name of those who contributed to the payment thereof is here attached.

On the 11th day of May 1880, Dr. Isaac L. Millner and James C. Veatch with the aid of two men employed by them put up said fence at the grave and had it neatly painted.

On the occasion of erecting the tombstone and putting up the fence, Mr. Henry C. Branham, superintendent of the Cincinnati, Rockport and Str. Rail Road with characteristic liberality freighted all the material and gave free passes to all who aided in the work or attended as visitors.

Now in consideration of the facts here stated we ask you to recognize the trust reposed in you by Mr. Henry Lewis and his associates as shown in his deed and to take such measures as may appear proper to protect and preserve the voluntary contributions of Mr. P. E. Studebaker and others mentioned herein.

And for that purpose we request that you appoint a committee of ten citizens of Spencer County who under your direction shall take charge of the grounds, so conveyed and protect, preserve and improve the cause; but with the distinct stipulation that their services, shall be rendered without charge and that all expense incurred in protecting and improving said premises must be met by the voluntary contributions of the people and never be made a charge against the county.

And we further ask that Mr. J. D. Armstrong be made a member of that committee.

Very respectfully,

James C. Veatch

L. S. Gilkey

R. T. Kercheval.

Contributions from Citizens of Spencer County for the purpose of procuring and putting up an Iron Fence to enclose the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at Lincoln City in Spencer County, Indiana.

NOVEMBER 28, 1879.

WILLIAM STATLER	\$1.00.	L. S. GILKEY	\$1.00.
LEVI E. RIGGS	1.00	R. T. KERCHEVAL	1.00
JOHN BASYE	1.00	S. W. FAIRFIELD	1.00
JAMES C. VEATCH	1.00	JAMES H. WILLIAM	1.00
DANIEL HAYFORD	1.00	R. S. HICKS	1.00
JOHN B. CHRISNEY	1.00	C. L. WEDDING	1.00
A. D. GARLINGHOUSE	1.00	J. W. CUNNINGHAM	1.00
G. E. FELTMAN	1.00	SAMUEL LAIRD	1.00
W. H. THOMAS	1.00	E. F. ROGERS	1.00
ALLEN GENTRY	1.00	S. W. STOCKING	1.00
WILLIS HAYNES	1.00	JAS. G. GREATHOUSE	1.00
DR. I. L. MIENER	1.00	DR. JAS. M. DAILY	1.00
DR. A. WHITE	1.00	COL. J. S. WRIGHT	1.00
PHILIP EIGENMAN	1.00	HENRY ROETZEL	1.00
E. H. ZACHRITZ	1.00	DR. H. L. AMEROSE	1.00
W. T. MASON	1.00	HENRY RIBKEY	1.00
J. R. DOUGHERTY	1.00	THOS. R. HARDY	1.00
C. F. SMITH	1.00	GEO. B. HIBBS	1.00
J. O. RICHARDSON	1.00	L. KAHN	1.00
G. W. PROCASKEY	1.00	THOS. LANDBURY	1.00

ISAAC GILLETTE	\$1.00	H. C. PENTECOST	\$1.00
JOHN G. KRUEGER	1.00	NEVILLE & RAY	1.00
F. WEIL & CO.	1.00	A. KOHLBECKER	1.00
J. D. ARMSTRONG	1.00	B. F. BRIDGES	1.00
M. HEICHELBACH	1.00	J. H. WALKER	1.00

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED \$50.00

COST OF IRON FENCE	\$42.00
FREIGHT	3.40
PAID LABOR IN PUTTING UP	3.00
FOR TRADING LANDS	1.00
	<hr/>
	\$49.40
BALANCE ON HANDS OF J. C. VEATCH	.60

Now come Jas. C. Veatch, L. E. Gilkey and Robert Kercheval, and present a memorial showing that Henry Lewis of Cincinnati, Ohio has conveyed by deed of trust to the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County one half acre of land at Lincoln City in said County upon which the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln is situated and that P. E. STUDEBAKER of South Bend, Indiana has caused to be erected at said grave a suitable tombstone and that the citizens of Rockport and vicinity have enclosed said grave with a neat iron fence.

And ask that this board accept the trust imposed on them by Henry Lewis and that for the purpose of protecting, preserving and further improving the grounds so conveyed to them that a committee of ten citizens of Spencer County including J. D. Armstrong, County Auditor, be appointed to act under the orders of the board in taking charge of the said premises and protecting and improving the same.

It is therefore ordered that the trust conveyed to the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County in the deed of Henry Lewis executed on the ____ day of ____ 1879, and recorded in Book ____ Page ____ in the Record of deeds of Spencer County, is hereby accepted and the request of the memorial granted by the appointments of the following named persons to wit:

David Turnham
Nathaniel Grigsby
J. D. Armstrong
R. T. Kercheval
James C. Veatch

Joseph Gentry
John W. Lamar
L. S. Gilkey
Dr. I. L. Milner
Henry C. Branham

Who will act as a committee under orders and directors of the Board in charge of said grounds; and they are authorized to receive voluntary contributions and expend the same in such manner as they or a majority of them may deem fit in improving and protecting said grave and grounds.

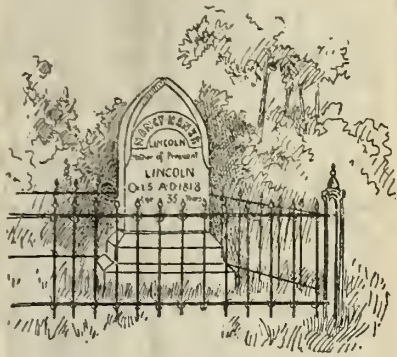
The members to serve without compensation and all expenses must be paid by voluntary contributions and no cost or expense of any kind touching said trust shall be paid by the County.

Said Committee will be required to make report to the County Board at their June Term in each year.

LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

Her Last Resting Place is Marked by a Simple Stone.

In traveling from St. Louis to Louisville, on the Louisville, Evansville & St. Louis Railroad, a traveler passes almost unnoticed the small town of Lincoln, in Spencer county, southern Indiana. The place derives its name from the old homestead of Abraham Lincoln's father, the farm lying half a mile or so from the railroad depot. The mother of the martyred President is buried here in a thickly wooded spot, within a stone's throw of where once stood Lincoln's father's log cabin. A plain white tombstone, sur-



GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

rounded by a neat iron fence, marks the place where her ashes lie.

A part of the old homestead and out-buildings still remain, with a few fence rails scattered here and there in the fields. The main building has been torn down for some time, and it has been a great many years since the cabin was occupied. Relic seekers would scarcely think of stopping off at Lincoln to find anything of interest. Very few persons, outside of the few hundred inhabitants of Lincoln, know where the grave is located, and the place has very few visitors. Attention has been called to the place lately by a movement which is on foot to have a fine monument

erected on the site, but as yet nothing definite has been done.

GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER

Land Surrounding It Conveyed to Memorial Association

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 16.—Governor Mount has received a deed to the sixteen acres of land in Spencer County surrounding the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the mother of Abraham Lincoln. The deed conveys the land from the county commissioners of Spencer County to the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association, of which the governor is president. The work on the monument will, it is believed, be completed this fall.

GRAVE OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER.

To Be Purchased and Preserved by a Memorial Association.

Rockport, Ind., June 8.—The Spencer County Council has voted an appropriation to buy the tract of land surrounding the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The property to be bought is a beautiful natural park of sixteen acres. At present there is a neat stone of granite and railing of

the park will be under the direct care and management of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association. A monument of fitting proportions is to be erected, the grounds are to be guarded and fenced and numerous other plans are projected for marking the grave of President Lincoln's mother.

FAMOUS GRAVE PRESERVED.

Resting Place of Nancy Hanks Now Belongs to the State of Indiana.

RICHMOND, Ind., Dec. 30, 1900. After many years of effort the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Abraham Lincoln, is now the property of the state. Gov. Mount has received the deed for the ground in the immediate vicinity of the grave in Spencer county in behalf of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Association. The ground is to be turned into a park, and a custodian will be put in charge and much beautifying done. The deed is from the commissioners of Spencer county.

COLONIAL AND PATRIOTIC.

Grave of Lincoln's Mother to Be Beautified.

Site at Lincoln City, Ind., to Be Converted Into a Park—Old "Retirement Hall," Greenville, N. J., to Be Demolished—History of Sanford, Me.—Society Outings.



THE Nancy Hanks Lincoln Monument Association is perfecting arrangements for clearing away the undergrowth on and beautifying the site of the grave of the mother of Abraham Lincoln. The grave of Mrs. Lincoln is at the top of a steep hill, near Lincoln City, Spencer county, Ind., only a few rods from the spot where stood the rude cabin erected by the Lincolns, father and son, in 1816. The association has undertaken to redeem the 16 acres surrounding, and convert it into an attractive park.

The grave of Lincoln's mother was neglected until, more than 40 years after her death, when, the eyes of the nation turned upon her son, some one remembered the lonely grave on the hilltop, and Clement Studebaker of South Bend, Ind., had it cleared of bramble and briars. Mr. Studebaker placed a stone, with inscription, at the head of the grave, and erected a fence around it. He also made provision for keeping the immediate surroundings in order. The approaches and adjacent lands were, however, most unsightly, and about two years ago some one wrote to President McKinley about it. This letter was referred to Gov. Mount of Indiana, and steps were taken to form the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Monument Association, composed of members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Sons of Veterans, the Loyal Legion, the Lincoln League and other patriotic societies, with Gov. Mount as president.

One can stand at the site of the grave and see many places which history and tradition connect with the name of Abraham Lincoln, who was 18 years old when he left Indiana for Illinois, and whose last act before leaving was to visit the grave of his mother. It is said to be doubtful if the stone erected by Mr. Studebaker really marks the grave of Lincoln's mother, as, the site being given over to undergrowth, people in time forgot which was Mrs. Lincoln's grave and which the graves of Dr. Cessna and Mrs. Gentry, old friends buried in close proximity. Capt. John Lamar of Spencer county is said to be the only person living who is known to have associated with the Lincolns during their residence in Indiana.

June 12th, 1928

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Foulke,
59 S. Seventeenth St.,
Richmond, Indiana.

My dear Mrs. Foulke:

At the request of Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle, President of the Indiana Lincoln Union, I am replying to your letter to her of June 5th relative to the Lincoln Union.

First may I give you a brief historical background. In 1879 a newspaper reporter visited Lincoln City and made inquiry as to the grave of the mother of Lincoln. The natives pointed out a knoll and said that the grave was located there. The reporter, after climbing through the brambles and underbrush came upon the spot pointed out by the postmaster. The newspaper story resulting from that visit described the neglect of the forgotten grave.

The article appeared in the South Bend paper and Mr. P. E. Studebaker, Second Vice President of the Studebaker Company, took note of it and suggested to the editor of the local paper that a fund should be raised to properly mark and care for the grave, offering to contribute to such a fund. He was prevailed upon by the editor and Schuyler Colfax to bear the entire expense himself. Mr. Colfax at that time told Mr. Studebaker that there had been talk of erecting a monument to Nancy Hanks for many years but nothing had ever come of it.

Mr. Studebaker caused a simple dignified stone to be placed at the head of the grave which was definitely located in 1879 by a group of natives two of whom as children were present at the burial of Nancy Hanks in 1818. It has been reported that more than one hundred people attended the placing of that monument and that a collection was taken up among them to erect an iron fence around the grave. W. H. Sarvis, of Cincinnati, a marble merchant sent to Italy for the stone and Alfred H. Yates, of Rockport, contributed his services in carving the inscriptions.

On November 29th, 1879 Henry Lewis, John Shillito, Robert Mitchell, and C. W. West, of Cincinnati, Ohio, deeded to the commissioners in Spencer County the one half acre surrounding the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln "to the commissioners of Spencer County and to their successors forever in trust for the people of the United States". This was the origin of the park around the grave of Nancy Hanks.

In June, 1897, however, Benjamin B. Dale, of Cincinnati, attorney for the above named former owners of the half acre, wrote to Governor Mount and said that he had visited the grave. "It was almost impossible to reach it by reason of the growth of underbrush and the fact that there was no path or road or drive that lead to the spot whatever," he said. This started the next major movement to commemorate that sacred ground.

There was talk of removing the body to Indianapolis where it could be honored. This met with vigorous protest from the people of Spencer County, of course. As a result of this agitation Governor Mount called a meeting of the Presidents and Commanders of the following patriotic organizations in the state on June 30th, 1897 for the purpose of organizing a movement to care for the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln: Grand Army of the Republic, Loyal Legion, Union Veterans Legion of Indiana, Sons of Veterans, Order of Lincoln of Indiana (colored), Ladies Aid Society of Indiana, and the county commissioners of Spencer County. The Military Order of Loyal Legion of the United States Commandery of the State of Indiana offered to assume responsibility of the care of the grave and the Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans asked to join the Association.

United States Senator C. W. Fairbanks was solicited by a number of Spencer County citizens to ask for a national appropriation to care for the grave but in his letters to Governor Mount he agreed with the Governor that it should be a state undertaking.

As a result of this meeting in the Governor's office the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association was founded and articles of the Association filed with the Secretary of State. A campaign to raise funds to care for the grave was started but the records of the Association show that three years later in 1900 only \$56.52 had been collected. Apparently the movement was revived in that year as United States Senator J. A. Henenway sent a check for \$100.00 and Robert Todd Lincoln sent a check for \$1,000.00 to the fund

Also in that year the Spencer County commissioners allowed Robert S. Ferguson \$800.00 for the sixteen acres surrounding the grave and then deeded their land to the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Association November 5th, 1900. This deed said that the property was to be maintained by the association in good repair and condition for park purposes and unless this condition was complied with the land would revert back to Spencer County.

In 1906, however, the grave was reported again to be in deplorable neglect. People of Spencer County and vicinity held a meeting at the grave and organized the 1906 movement. Governor J. Frank Hanley on March 9th, 1906 called a meeting of the defunct Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association. The commissioners of Spencer County had threatened to file suit to set aside the deed, if the grave site was not put in immediate order but such action was deferred pending the outcome of the meeting called by Governor Hanley. The meeting passed a resolution to the effect that the next session of legislature create a state commission to care for the grave.

The 1907 legislature, therefore, created the board of commissioners of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln grounds authorizing it in the name of the state to receive all lands, moneys, and other property of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association. The act provided for the new board to improve and maintain the grounds around the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Also to erect "a substantial and ornamental fence around said burial ground and premises and beautify the same". The act appropriated \$5,000.00 for this purpose. The board consisted of three commissioners, two of whom were to be appointed by the Governor and one of which was to be a resident of Spencer County. The secretary of the state board of forestry was made an ex officio member of the board. In compliance with this act of October 8, 1907 the old Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Association was called to the Governor's office where its books, records, and finances were turned over to the state and the association was formally dissolved. The treasurer's report showed that of the \$1,156.52 collected by the association, \$231.15 had been expended in the building of a well, leaving a balance of \$925.37.

In 1917 the legislature appropriated \$1,200.00 to the commission for repairs and additional maintenance of the park. Also in that year a movement was started to locate the site where stood the cabin in which the Lincoln family had lived for the fourteen years of its residence in this state. Under the leadership of John J. Brown, Spencer County commissioners appointed a committee composed of Mr. Brown, Mr. John Chewning, and Mr. Allen J. Payton for this purpose. Call was sent out to all the old residents in the community to assist in the locating of the exact spot in which the cabin stood.

On March 12th, 1917 Davis Enlow, Joseph Gentry, and Mr. LeMarr all of whom had been very familiar with the cabin before it was removed in 1870, agreed on the approximate location of the four walls. Joseph Gentry, to prove his contention as to the location of the fireplace had a spade full of ground removed and uncovered three or four of hearth stones and some bits of crockery etcetera. Upon April 28th, 1917 a stone marker was erected on the spot and dedicated. This cabin site is located on a knoll now in the heart of Lincoln City, approximately one fourth mile from the top of the knoll on which is located the grave of Nancy Hanks.

In 1923 the state legislature created the Lincoln Memorial commission to "prepare and execute plans for erecting a suitable memorial to the memory of Abraham Lincoln at or near the place of his residence in the state". The act further provided that the new commission should purchase such land as necessary for the erection of a proper memorial and further stated that the commission should have authority to conduct any campaign for raising funds among the people for the erection of a building, a monument, or other memorial on the site that may be purchased at or near the home of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana. \$5,000.00 was appropriated in the act for this purpose.

The commission was to consist of nine members all appointed by the Governor and was empowered to employ such clerical help or other assistance as necessary to carry out its duties. At about this time a group of patriotic citizens of Indianapolis formulated the Indiana Lincoln Memorial Association under the leadership of Dr. J. Frank Wynn, Mrs. John N. Carey, Dr. Lenius N. Hines, and Harry Glossbrenner and a number of others. This association attempted to raise funds through life membership in the organization for the purpose of erecting memorials at the Lincoln City site. This organization was getting well under way when Dr. Wynn died.

Also the Grand Army of the Republic about this time attempted to raise funds to erect a statue of Lincoln by the issuing of certificates and the Sons of Veterans organization became active in the same cause and began preparations for the appealing to the legislature to appropriate sufficient moneys and the Historical Societies awakened a great deal of interest through their Indiana Lincoln Inquiry campaign. But out of this there was little or no coordination among all the various groups and little except commendable propaganda and momentum in the right direction was actually accomplished.

In 1925 the legislature passed an act conferring all the rights, powers and duties that had been conferred upon the

board of commissioners of the Nancy Hanks Lincoln burial ground in the act of 1907 to the State Department of Conservation and abolished the old board of commissioners.

Richard Lieber, as director of the Department of Conservation, made a tour of inspection of the grounds that had been placed under his jurisdiction. He found that the sacred grave yard knoll was open to vehicular traffic and he watched appalled while automobiles drove over the graves of those who sleep with Nancy Hanks. He walked over to the site where the cabin had stood and found all there mean and ugly with neglect. Out houses surrounded the stone erected by the county commissioners, pig sties were within a few feet and broken down shacks stood on the ground where Nancy Hanks had planted her first small garden. He noted that a branch railroad cut across between the cabin and grave sites and on the tracks of this railroad stood freight cars.

It was on the occasion of that visit that he determined to blot out the disgrace of Indiana's neglect of these sacred sites. He conceived the possibility of a beautiful state park encompassing both the knoll where the grave was located and the knoll where stood the cabin. With the monies that had been turned over to his department by the old commission he purchased approximately fifty additional acres to south and east of the grave site. He ordered the gates of the small park closed to vehicular traffic and instructed the caretaker to forbid picnics to be held in close proximity to this grave.

In 1926 Mr. Lieber taking cognizance of the various efforts of the many organizations above mentioned and others began laying the plans for the movement that had its culmination in the Indiana Lincoln Union campaign. Mr. Will Hays, Mr. Marcus Sonntag, of Evansville, and Governor Ed Jackson held a number of conferences and outlined a tentative plan of organization adopting as its policy the coordination of all patriotic and civic groups into one state wide movement and with that thought in mind adopted the name the Indiana Lincoln Union.

In December 1926 Governor Jackson announced the appointment of the Union membership and its officers. I enclose the copy of that announcement. The Executive Committee of the Union began its work immediately upon its appointment and you are, of course, more or less familiar with what has been accomplished since. I am sending you under separate cover two booklets published by the committee in connection with its campaign with which you are perhaps already familiar. May I call your attention particularly to the statements made beginning on page 10 in the booklet entitled "Lincoln Memorials".

and if you wish to know anything else please advise
I am not sure that I have given you all the information
that you desire

-6 -

me.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your good work as county chairman in this cause and trust that you will continue to give the movement your support,

Yours very truly,

Executive Secretary.

PVB:ENS

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED, 1920.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

WILLIAM L. BARKER, BOONVILLE
JOHN E. IGLEHART, EVANSVILLE
MRS. CHARLES T. JOHNSON, MT. VERNON
KENNETH H. WEYERBACHER, BOONVILLE
MRS. CALDER D. EHLMANN, ROCKPORT
MRS. ALBION FELLOWS BACON, EVANSVILLE
GEORGE R. WILSON, INDIANAPOLIS
MRS. CARRIE V. HALBRUGE, ROCKPORT
ROBERT A. WOODS, PRINCETON
MRS. FRANK H. HATFIELD, EVANSVILLE
ARTHUR E. FRETAGOET, NEW HARMONY
D. FRANK CULBERTSON, VINCENNES
JOHN K. CHAPPEL, PETERSBURG

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PRESIDENT, WILLIAM L. BARKER, BOONVILLE.
SECRETARY, KENNETH H. WEYERBACHER, BOONVILLE.

TREASURER, GEORGE H. HONIG, EVANSVILLE.
209 LOCUST ST.

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MISS ANN PAGE, PUBLIC LIBRARY, EVANSVILLE

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MISS GENEVIEVE M. WILLIAMS, DUBOIS COUNTY
LUCIUS C. EMBREE, GIBSON COUNTY
WILLIAM C. MASON, KNOX COUNTY
DR. PORTER J. COULTAS, PERRY COUNTY
M. MAC STOOPS, PIKE COUNTY
MRS. B. O. HANBY, POSEY COUNTY
MRS. GEORGE S. CLIFFORD, VANDERBURGH COUNTY
TAYLOR C. BASYE, SPENCER COUNTY
MRS. ELDORA MINOR RALEIGH, WARRICK COUNTY

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:

MRS. CHARLES T. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

JOHN E. IGLEHART, CHAIRMAN, EVANSVILLE

My dear friend Warren
Feb. 4th/1930
Enclosed find some
data on Re-Nancy Lincoln's grave

Mr. Geo. E. Feltman who I know
very well (and (my wife was named
after for Mr. Feltman's mother)
was one of the 50 men to give a dollar
each to buy the fence.

He was there yesterday and gave
me an interview on the dedication
of this Studabakers gift at Lincoln City.
he was 19 years old at that time and attended
the dedication it is interesting and he
will write out his story of this event for me.
I trust this bit of information will be of interest to you.
I am sincerely yours. George Honig

F. A. Miller , President and Editor

C.E. Crockett, Sec'y and Treas

THE SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

FEB. 3 1930

Mr. George H. Honig
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Sir,

Replying to your letter of Feb, 1, 1930 , we enclose a
copy of the editorial requested.

Very Sincerely Yours,

South Bend Tribune

F. A. Miller

President and Editor

PAM- MB

The Following editorial appeared in the South Bend Daily Tribune
Friday evening , July 25 , 1879.

"Few of our readers know that the late President Lincoln's
mother died and was buried in this state. Lincoln's parents
came to Indiana in 1817 and settled 17 miles from Rockport at
a place now called Lincoln City . Mrs. Lincoln's died the year
following and was buried there. No stone marks the spot.
There is a sunken place in the ground and where the head stone
should be there is a dogwood bush . It would have been no more
than justice had a few dollars of the thousands put into the Lincoln
Monument been spent for a stone to mark the resting place
of a woman who gave the United States its greatest president
since Washington. There ought to be enough pride
among the ~~Hoosier~~ Hoosier admirers of Lincoln to pay this much
tribute to his mother's memory."

The above editorial inspired P.E. Studebaker to
send 50 dollars to Post master L.A. Gilman Rockport
Ind. to erect a marble slab at Nancy Lincoln's
grave. The stone was erected Nov 27-1879
on May 11 1880 50 Rockport citizens erected
an Iron Fence to protect the Studebaker
gift.
Feb 4th 1930 George H. Honig Evansville Ind.
209 Lomb St

Page 1 This came to us through SOUTHWESTERN IND. HIST. SOCIETY, Documentary evidence on who furnished the tomb stone and who furnished the iron fence surrounding it at the grave of NANCY HANKS LINCOLN'S GRAVE at LINCOLN CITY, IND.

MISS PET ENLOW grand daughter of Gen. J.C. Veatch, of Rockport, is to be given credit for these papers. sent to GEO. H. Honig EVANSVILLE, IND. July 1929

The following committee with a petition in June, 1889 before COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ROCKPORT, INDIANA In Re- NANCY HANKS LINCOLN GRAVE. - The Iron Fence and 50 contributors Committee - James C. Veatch- L.A. Gilkey- & R.T. Kercheval

June 17 1880

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SPENCER COUNTY INDIANA.

AT THE JUNE TERM 1880, THE UNDERSIGNED ASK LEAVE TO MAKE THE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

On the 25, day of July 1879 Mr. P.E. Studebaker, the well known Carriage Manufacturer of South Bend, Indiana, saw an editorial paragraph in the TRIBUNE of that city to the effect that the grave of Mrs. Nancy Lincoln, the mother of President Lincoln, was left unmarked, and uncared for in the forest near Lincoln City in this County.

He immediately wrote to Mr. L.A. Gilkey, Post Master at Rockport, to know if this statement was true, and receiving an answer that it was substantially correct he sent his check for Fifty Dollars to Mr. Gilkey asking him to procure the best tomb stone that could be obtained for that sum and to have it set up at her grave.

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Mr. Lewis responded generously offering to give half an acre of the land embracing said grave.

On the day the tomb stone was erected Mr. W.W. Wells, County Surveyor, kindly gave his services in measuring and marking off the half acre of ground and on the 3 day Dec 1879 Mr. Henry Lewis as trustee for, conveyed to John W. Huffman, David J. Axton and John M. Gwaltney as a Board of Commissioners of Spencer County and to their successors in office the said half acre of land to be held by them in trust for the whole people of the United States for the purpose in said deed.

Said deed is recorded in the record of deeds of Spencer County book 42 page 380 and is now shown to the court.

On the same day the tomb stone was erected James Veatch started a subscription of \$1.00 each to procure an iron fence to inclose said grave and obtained for that purpose \$50.00.

He contracted with S.W. Stocking of Rockport, agent of the Manufacturer of the Champion Iron Fence of Kenton, Ohio for 36 feet of ornamental Iron Fence for the actual cost in consideration of the purpose for which it was to be used.

A statement of the cost of said fence and expense of transporting and erecting the same, with the names of those who contributed to the payment thereof is here attached.

On the 11 day of May 1880 Dr. Isaac L. Milner and James C. Veatch (note by George H. Honig Dr. Milner is the father of Mrs. Kate Milner Rand) with the aid of two men employed by them put up said fence at the grave and had it neatly painted.

On the occasion of erecting the tomb stone and putting up the fence Mr. Henry C. Branham Superintendent of the Cincinnati, Rockport and Str. Rail Road, with characteristic liberality freighted all the material and gave free passes to all who aided in the work or attended as visitors.

Now in consideration of the facts here stated we ask you to recognize the trust reposed in you by Mr. Henry Lewis and his associates as shown in his deed and to take such measures as may appear proper to protect and preserve the voluntary contributions of Mr. P.E. Studebaker and others mentioned herein.

And for that purpose we request that you appoint a committee of ten citizens of Spencer, County who under your direction shall take charge of the grounds so conveyed and protect, preserve and improve the same; but with the distinct stipulation that their services shall be rendered with out charge and that all expense incurred in protecting and improving said premises must be met by the voluntary contributions of the people and never be made a charge against the County.

And we further ask that Mr. J.D. Armstrong be made a member of that Committee.

Very Respectfully

Signed

James C. Veatch

L.A. Gilkey

R.T. Kercheval.

Commissioners record June 17-1880 Book 9 page 224

The above information from Citizens on next page.

I ask Miss Pet Enlow at June meeting at Richland to send these papers

Committee's petition to Spencer County Commissioners, Rockport, Ind

Contributions from Citizens of Spencer County for the purpose of ~~XXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ procuring and putting up an Iron Fence to enclose the
grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln at Lincoln City in Spencer Co. Indiana.

NOVEMBER 23, 1879

William Statler	1.	L.A. Gilkey	1.	J.C. Richardson	1.
Levi E. Riggs	1.	R.T. Kercheval	1.	Geo. Procaskey	1.
John Basye	1.	A.W. Fairfield	1.	Isaac Gillett	1.
James C. Veatch	1.	James H. Wilman	1.	John G. Krieger	1.
Daniel Mayford	1.	R.S. MOORE HICKS	1.	F. Weil & Co.	1.
John B. Chrisney	1.	C.L. WEDDING	1.	J.D. Armstrong	1.
A.A. Garlinghouse	1.	J.W. Cunningham	1.	M. Heichelback	1.
G.E. Feltman	1.	Samuel Laird	1.	L. Kahn	1.
WM. H. Thomas	1.	E.J. Rogers	1.	Thos. Landsbury	1.
All on Gentry	1.	S.W. Stocking	1.	H.C. Fentecost	1.
Willis Haynis	1.	James G. Greathouse	1.	Neville Ray	1.
DR. ISAAC L. MILNER	1.	Dr. James M. Dailey	1.	A. Fohlbecker	1.
Dr. A. White	1.	Col. J.S. Wright	1.	B.F. Bridges	1.
Philip Egenman	1.	Henry Roetzel	1.	J.H. Walker	1.
E.H. Zacheritz	1.	Dr. M.L. Embrose	1.	W.T. MASON	1.
Henry Ribkey	1.	J.R. Dougherty	1.	Thos. R. Hardy	1.
C.F. Smith	1.	Geo. B. Hibbs	1.		

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED \$50.60

Feb 4 - 1930 of the above
the following living
Lewis E. Feltman Evansville
M. Heichelback Date
Col J. G. Wright Rockport Ind

Cost of Iron Fence	40.00
Freight	3.40
Paid labor in putting up fence	3.00
for loading hands	1.00
	\$ 49.40
Balance on hands of J.C. Veatch	.60

Now Come Jas. C. Veatch, L.A. Gilkey, and Robert Kercheval and present
a ~~XXXXXX~~ Memorial showing that Henry Lewis of Cincinnati O. has conveyed by
deed of trust to the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County one half acre
of land at Lincoln City in said County upon which the grave of Nancy Hanks
Lincoln the mother of Abraham Lincoln is situated and that W.L. Studebaker
of South Bend, Ind. has caused to be erected at said grave a suitable
tomb stone and that the citizens of Rockport and vicinity have enclosed
said grave with a neat iron fence.

And ask that this Board accept the trust imposed on them by Henry
Lewis and for the purpose of protecting preserving and further improve the
grounds so conveyed to them that a committee of ten citizens of Spencer
County including J.D. Armstrong, County Auditor be appointed to act under
the orders of the board in taking charge of the said premises and protecting
and improving the same.

It is therefore ordered that the trust conveyed to the board of
Commissioners of Spencer Co. in the deed of Henry Lewis executed on the
3 day of ~~Dec~~ 1879 and recorded in Book ~~40~~ Page 388 in the Record of
deeds of Spencer Co. is hereby accepted and the request of the Memorialists
granted by the appointment of the following named persons To-wit-

David Thunham, Joseph Gentry, Nathaniel Grigsby, John W. Lamar,
J.D. Armstrong L.S. Gilkey, R.T. Kercheval, Dr. I.L. Milner, James C. Veatch
and Henry C. Branham.

Who will act as a committee under orders and directions of the
board in charge of said grounds and they are authorized to receive
voluntary contributions and expend the same in such manner as they ~~area~~
majority of them may deem fit in improving and protecting said ~~graves~~
grave and grounds.

The members to serve with out compensation and all expenses must
be paid by voluntary contributions and no cost or expense of any kind includ-
ing said trust shall be paid by the county.

Said committee will be required to make report to the County Board
at their June Term in each year.

THIS came to us through
Papers of James C. Veatch (continued)
sent to George H. Honig 209. Locust, St.
By Miss Pet. Enlow, Rockport, Ind.

SEPT. 29, 1895 Gen. James C. Veatch wrote this paper on
THOMAS LINCOLN Father of the President.

Thomas Lincoln died in 1851 at his home at Goose Nest Prairie in
Coles County, Ill. and was buried at the Gordon Cemetery, two miles
from his home. His grave remained unmarked from 1851 to 1880.

After Abraham Lincoln was elected president, he visited the grave
of his father and directed estimates to be sent him of the cost of
erecting tombstones at his father's grave. But the war coming on the
matter was forgotten and nothing was done about it, until Geo. B. Balch
a local poet of no mean talent wrote the following poem.

"The grave of Abraham Lincoln's Father"

In a low sweet vale by a murmuring rill
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping
Where the cold marble shafts so lonely and still
In silence their vigil are keeping.

On their sad ~~lonely~~ faces are words of fame
But none of them speak of his glory
When the pioneer died his name and age
No monument whispered his story.
No myrtle No ivy nor hyacinths shows
O'er the lonely place where they laid him
No cedar; Nor holly Nor almond tree grows
Near the ~~the~~ plebians grave to shade him

Sweet evergreens wave over many a grave
Over some bows a sad weeping willow
But no willow trees bow nor evergreens wave
Where the Pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

While some are inhumed with the honors of state
And placed beneath temples to moulder
The grave of the Father of Lincoln the great
Is known by a hillock and boulder

Let him take his long sleep and quite rest
With naught to disturb or awake him
When the angel shall come to gather the blest
To Abraham's bosom they'll take him.

These verses were published in Lippincott's Magazine and
other publications and a copy was sent to Robert Lincoln who promptly
responded by offering to pay the expense of a monument to his grandfathers
grave. Meantime the poem had aroused the citizens of Cole County
and some funds were raised so when the call was made on Robert Lincoln
only \$116. was required from him.

The monument is a plain Grecian obelisk of Italian Marble 9 ft. 8 in
in height and by no means the finest in the rural cemetery and bears the
following inscription Thomas Lincoln father of The Martyr President
born January 6, 1778 Died January 15, 1851. on the base is the words
LINCOLN In large letters and a small foot stone bears the letters T. L.
The monument was placed where it now stands on the 7th day of May 1880
1880, twenty nine years after his death.

Thomas Lincoln's second wife sleeps by his side with no stone to mark
her grave. She died in 1869 and so highly was she esteemed that the whole
surrounding country joined in her funeral procession.

A copy of the family record in the hands of John Hale a grandson of
Thomas Lincoln's wife gives the following data.

Thomas Lincoln born Jan. 6, 1778, Married June 6, 1806 to Nancy
Hanks who was born Feb. 5, 1784 Sarah Lincoln daughter of Thomas
Lincoln and Nancy born Feb. 12, 1807. Abraham Lincoln son of Thomas and
Nancy Lincoln born Feb. 12, 1809. Sarah Bush first married Daniel
Johnson and afterwards became the second wife of Thomas Lincoln She was born
Dec. 13, 1788. Mr. Hall speaks of Thomas Lincoln as one of the best
men who ever lived

A sturdy honest god fearing man whom all the neighbors respected and
turned to in time of trouble. Would work hard all the week till Saturday and
then walk to Charleston 12 miles to hear the Gospel preached on Sunday.

The cemetery is half way between Farmington Janesville in Cole County.
This statement was taken from a letter in the St. Louis Globe Democrat of
Sept. 20, 1895 and has every appearance of being historically correct except
the statement that Abraham Lincoln helped build the house for his father at
Goose Neck Prairie. This is not sustained by any other authority that I have
seen. Abe helped to build the first house occupied by his father after
reaching Ill. in 1830 but he was absent down the river with a full boat-
load when his father went to Coles County never worked for him again.

GEORGE H. HONIG, Sculptor
A member of Historical Research
and Reference Committee of the
Indiana Lincoln Union.

Page 4
Papers of Gen. James C. Veatch (continued)
Sent to George H. Honig, 239 Locust, St. Evansville
by Miss Pett Enlow, Rockport, Ind.
Grand daughter of Gen. Veatch

Letter of Gen. Veatch to DR. I.L.MILNER ROCKPORT. IND.

EVANSVILLE. INDIANA.

DR. I.L.MILNER Treasurer of June, 1, 1884
Rockport, Ind. Committee (Nancy Hanks Lincoln grave fund)

Dear Doctor: I received from you, through Charles \$11.00 contributions collected for the Lincoln grave. I received from W. T. Mason 25 cents and of R.T. Kercheval \$1.00 making \$12.25 and I have expended \$14.40.

I have the promise of James Hammond of Dale to send me \$2.00 which will cover the amount expended within 15 cents.

Our Secretary J.D. Armstrong suggests that on Saturday June 4, we make an effort to secure further contributions from the crowd visiting Lincoln City.

Will not be able to be on hand.

Will you select some ~~one~~ who are going to make a collection on that day.

Yours truly,

James C. Veatch

The following letters to G.H.Honig from Miss Pett Enlow about the General Veatch Papers and letters.

Mr. George H. Honig June 30, 1929
Evansville, Ind.

Dear George:- The article I wrote you of is not a clipping from a paper but my grandfather's report to the "Commissioners of Spencer County." a report written in a of copies of letters, most of them are personal, I will make a copy of it for you as soon as possible. Nodoubt the same thing is in the records at the Court House but was never sought for. Have found nothing more of Lincoln interest asmost of the letters are family letters to my grandmother and mother hope you and miss Alda are not wilted these hot days.

Kindest regards to you both.

June 1, 1929

Pett Enlow.

Mr. G. H. Honig
Evansville, Ind.

July 12, 1929

Dear George:-

I am sending you a copy of all the "Lincoln" information I have found. This is in records of Spencer County so you can have some one find the missing dates for you.

Nodoubt Grandfather intended so doing but was never attended to. Hope this will be off some assistance to you.

With kindest regards to you both

Very truly,

July 12, 1929

Pett Enlow

Mr. George H. Honig
Evansville, Ind.

July 17, 1929

Dear George M,

I have misseed a copy of a portion of a letter to James Rax Pollard and think perhaps I might have put it with the Lincoln ~~information~~ information sent you.

If so please return it to me as ther is more to go with it. and it is just local history, nothing to do with the Lincoln history.

With the kindest regards,

July 17, 1929.

Pett Enlow

80478 (Continued) J.C. Ventch . Re Lincoln Grave Lincoln City.

Jan. 23 1930 George H. Honig found the following information at Rockport. Court House.

Auditors offices

On Page 224 & 225 Book 2xx I June 17, 1880 order #171

Substantially same as papers from Pet Enlow . in Re & Nancy Hanks Lincoln Grave

ON PAGE 230 Book 42 Recorders offices. Deed to one acre surrounding Nancy Hanks grave Deed prepared Nov 29, 1879 Deed signed Dec. 3, 1879 deed recorded Dec. 10, 1879.

Henry Lewis Trustee, Spencer County. consideration \$1.00 for Part Block #56 Lincoln VCity

LEWIS TRUSTEE TO COUNTY OF SPENCER.

This indenture witnesseth that Henry Lewis Trustee for Himself, John Shillito, Robert Mitchel, and C.W. West of Hamilton County, State of Ohio for the purpose of securing to our common country and holding Sacred the grave and monument of Nancy Hanks Lincoln mother of Abraham Lincoln as well as for and in consideration of the sum of \$1.00 one dollar in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, convey and warrant to David J. Axton ~~XXNIGALWAY~~ J.W. Gaultney, and J. Harrison Huffman now constituting the Board of Commissioners of Spencer County in the State of Indiana and to their successors in office forever in trust for the People of the United States, one half acre of land surrounding the said grave in the Town of Lincoln City, Spencer, County, State of Indiana.

Described as Follows Being A Part of Block Number (#56) Fifty Six in said town bounded as follows. To, witt:

Commencing 224 4/10 feet East of the South West corner of said block #56 and running thence North 132 feet thence East 165 feet, thence South 132 feet to Kercheval Street and thence along said Kercheval street west to the place of beginning with no appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any in se appertaining intestamony whereof the said Henry Lewis Trustee as aforesaid hath hereunto set his hand and seal in this 22 day of November 1879

Henry Lewis Trustee for John Shillito, Robert Mitchell
Chas W. West and Himself.

State of Ohio County of Hamilton S.S.

Be it remembered that on this 3rd day of Dec. A.D. 1879. Before me, Jno. B. Bouyet a notary Public within and for said County duly commissioned and qualified Personally appeared Henry Lewis for himself and as trustee for John Shillito, Robert Mitchell and Charles W. West, the grantor in the foregoing deed and acknowledged the execution thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and and affixed my official seal the day and year aforesaid

Jno. B. Bouyet

Notary Public Hamilton, Ohio County, Ohio.

The deed which the foregoing is a true copy was duly recorded Dec. 10, th 2.1. 1879

Wm. H. Ellis, Recorder.

Indiana Lincoln Union.
A member of Historical Research
and Reference Committee of the
GEORGE H. HONIG, Sculptor

Indiana Lincoln Union.
A member of Historical Research
and Reference Committee of the

Special Correspondence of The Inter Ocean.

Gentryville Ind Nov 28 7 Jubile 1880

The day was the time appointed for the erection of the long
talked of monument over the grave of ~~young~~ Hayes's children
Lincoln's mother. The day opened with a heavy shower
from the south. However a little after day break the rain ceased
and the citizens started towards Lincoln City.

A party of prominent gentlemen and ladies from Rockport
among whom were Geo Beach & Hon 37 Kershaw, Bosworth
Gilbey and others to numerous to mention.

The cult is still in the woods as it was when first launched
for admission to the Union. The grave is about 80 feet east
of a large old white oak and the place could be known
by the small ~~being~~ ~~small~~ ~~grave~~ where the grave was made.
Nearby ~~the~~ ~~grave~~ ~~is~~ ~~a~~ ~~relict~~ ~~mark~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~grave~~ ~~conductor~~ ~~the~~ ~~oak~~
is ~~erect~~ ~~the~~ ~~grave~~ ~~is~~ ~~a~~ ~~gift~~ ~~of~~ ~~my~~ ~~Commander~~
Stedeburn the famous ~~war~~ ~~on~~ ~~builder~~ ~~of~~ ~~South~~ ~~Sea~~ ~~Just~~ ~~as~~
a token of his respect for the martyred President.
Mr Beach is contracting for a new fence.

signed by Barr

The above is copy book 5 page 69 in North Ind Hist Socy

(copied for list)

THE POCKET PERISCOPE

By Thomas James de la Hunt

SOME supersensitive souls up-state have applied the term "Desecration!" to southwestern Indiana neighborhood gatherings such as assemble from time to time at Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial Park in Spencer county, yet on Sunday, July 11, at the Boonville Press club's third annual picnic, no lesson drawn from Holy Writ, no eulogism of patriotic oratory was necessary to emphasize the sacredness of the shrine whither hundreds of Indiansians who revere the Pioneer Mother had wended their way for spiritual awakening and inspiration.

The silent forest shade speaks for itself, utters its own panegyric:

"Where the wind of the West breathes
its softest sigh;
Where the silvery stream is flowing
high;
Where the sun's warm rays may
never dispel
Night's tears o'er the form that was
loved so well;
Where no column proud in the sun
may glow,
To mock the heart that is resting
below."

Criticism has been expressed—nor without justification—as to the in-artistic marker which is outside the little iron-fenced grave-plot where repose the ashes of Nancy Hanks Lincoln; a monument of nondescript type, far too ponderous, quite incongruous with its native woodland setting. The sentiment which conveyed to Spencer county for this purpose some of the granite left over from the Illinois Lincoln memorial at Springfield is perhaps commendable, but the marker of architectural proportions could have been located more effectively near the entrance to the forest park, facing the semi-formal driveway, with its well-designed landscape planting. It is not too late for a resetting of this massive block, thereby restoring the simple, graceful tombstone to the prominence it rightfully deserves.

For the first tombstone ever erected above the grave, the nation was indebted to a young man who was, like Lincoln himself, of Kentucky birth and a Hoosier by adoption, the late Joseph Davis Armstrong of Rockport, who came in 1857 to live in the same vicinity whither Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln with their two children had emigrated two-score years before. As was noted in this column a fortnight ago, Mr. Armstrong at once became imbued with the Lincoln atmosphere which pervaded the hills and dales the Great Emancipator's eyes had looked upon during fourteen uneventful though formative years of character moulding.

"My father came to Spencer county in 1857," wrote Miss Ida D. Armstrong in 1923, "and in 1858 drew a picture of the Lincoln cabin with its famous tree which tradition tells us was planted by Abraham Lincoln. James Atlas Jones of Rockport (who worked for Atwell Morgan in 1861, at the time Morgan owned this farm); John Meir, Joseph Gentry, John L. Main, all of Lincoln City; also Alfred H. Yates of Rockport; all agree that this is an exact drawing of the cabin as it was at that time. Mr. Yates, who came to Rockport in 1856, rememberr well the old log cabin where the Lincolns dwelt and the log church where they worshipped."

"The church," continued Miss Armstrong, "which stood one mile west of what is now Lincoln City, was built of logs, with a stick-and-mud chimney, having a very large fireplace on one side of the building, with a pulpit made of roughly hewn boards. It had a window (with no glass, but heavy wooden shutters immediately behind it,) at one end of the structure, and a ladder leading to the upper story, where the people who came great distances might stay over night. Split logs, with wooden pegs for legs, and a punch-eon floor; were also features of this church, the logs of which were sold and used in the building of a barn. My grandfather, Rev. James Fair Armstrong, preached in this quaint old church many times."

No theory has ever appeared to explain why Abraham Lincoln did not have his mother's last resting place marked at some time during his mature years, after he had attained reasonable financial success. It is known that he returned to Spencer county in course of the presidential campaign of 1844, making three stump speeches for the Clay and Frelinghuysen ticket; on which he was an (Illinois) elector. It is told that these three addresses were delivered in the court house at Rockport (built 1835); in a blacksmith shop at Gentryville, and in a Carter township schoolhouse near his former home. He then visited the graves of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and his only sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, and afterward wrote some verses which he sent to a Spencer county friend enclosed in a letter explaining their inspiration.

Miss Armstrong has supplied the opening stanzas, which run as follows:

"My childhood's home I see again
And sadden with the view;
And still as memory crowds my brain
There's pleasure in it, too.

"O Memory! Thou midway world
'Twixt earth and paradise,
Where things decayed and loved ones
lost.

In dreamy shadows lie.
"And, freed from all that's earthly,
vile,

Seem hallowed, pure and bright,
Like scenes in some enchanted isle
All bathed in liquid light."

It was on this trip in 1844 that Lincoln spent the night in the ancient brick house at the northeast corner of the public square in Rockport, long known as the "Sargent House," and a conspicuous landmark from its lofty setting above the grade on Main street as cut through the bluff, and now approached by a flight of steps. The room he occupied is still identified for tourists by its heavy old door-latch with small brass knob. A plan has been broached among Rockport club-women who have caught the vision to acquire and preserve the old edifice as an historical shrine, but fulfillment of their dream is yet remote, although "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

Nathaniel Grigsby, known to the older generation as "Uncle Natty," visited Illinois in 1860, one learns from Miss Armstrong's copyright article, and while in Springfield had an interview with Lincoln, who stated his intention to return to Spencer county and see the people he had once known, and to erect a suitable monument at his mother's grave, feeling this last a sacred duty. He never did so, however, and the grave had become overgrown with weeds and briars when Joseph D. Armstrong happened to be in the woods surrounding the site.

"Noting the neglected, lonely spot," wrote Miss Armstrong, "knowing that hunters were trampling it under foot and that there was not the slightest regard paid to it; realizing that soon there would be no way of locating this sacred spot unless it was in some manner cared for and marked; my father returned to Rockport and purchased a small marble slab, two feet high, with a foot marker. The words "Nancy Hanks Lincoln" were the only inscription on the slab. A few of the business men of Rockport at that time contributed a small amount to help place the markers. My father had the grave cleaned off and the markers placed.

"A few years later, one of the Studebaker Brothers (Clement, Sr.,) who was in Lincoln City, waiting between trains, noted the modest slab at this hallowed grave and conceived the idea of a larger tombstone, and so wrote the postmaster at Rockport, Luman S. Gilkey, sending the money for this purpose. Alfred H. Yates, pioneer marble man, donated the work on the monument, the marble coming from Italy through W. H. Sarvis, pioneer marble man of Cincinnati, who also contributed to the cause. Mr. Yates' work and donation on the monument amounted to more than the amount of money sent by Mr. Studebaker, and he went to Lincoln City and superintended the placing of it at the grave.

